

Asheville City Council November 15, 2022 Voicemail Comments

CommentDate	Comment
11/14/2022 11:07 AM	<p>Good evening. My name is Deanna Toledo and I have lived just two blocks off Merriman Avenue for over 15 years. I'm calling to say thank you to City Council and to the folks at the City Transportation Department on the reconfiguration of of Merriman. I know this has been a really controversial project that many of my neighbors have been quite vocal in opposing it, so I just wanna make sure the city Council realizes that there are many of us who support it. I drive on the stretch of road multiple times a week at all times of day, and so far, I must say I've been really pleased with the changes on me. Men, it feels a lot safer now. Speeds have slowed down and the cars are no longer weaving suddenly from one lane to the other. And also as a pedestrian, it feels a lot safer now that there's some distance between the sidewalks and the car. So I think since the project has started, I've probably driven the stretch of road more than 20 times. And I must say I've encountered a delay only once. And even then, it was probably about three minutes that it added to my commute. So I also realized that most of the time I'm driving to businesses on Merriman, that I could easily reach my bike or on foot, and I bet that's the case for many of the cars on that road. Unfortunately, Merriman until now has just not been safe for bikers or pedestrians. So I know I, and I hope I'm not alone, that once the project is completed and when the weather warms up, I'm hoping to use my car a lot less frequently for these short trips and encourage a lot of my neighbors to do the same. So again, thank you for supporting the project and in particular for keeping the focus on the safety of our residents and the livability of our neighborhoods, even as Asheville growth and, and traffic increases. Thank you.</p>